

Message Text

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15/64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9743

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 0557

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR MRN 0557 VICE 0057)

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, XG

SUBJECT: CONFERENCE OF WESTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES

1. LOUIS VAN GEYT, PRESIDENT OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF BELGIUM DELIVERED THE OPENING SPEECH AT THE THREE-DAY CONFERENCE OF WESTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES IN BRUSSELS JANUARY 26028. THE PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE, ACCORDING TO VAN GEYT, IS TO EXAMINE "THE CURRENT CAPITALIST CRISIS IN EUROPE", THE STRUGGLE BEING WAGED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTIES FOR SOCIAL PROGRESS AND DEMOCRACY, AND THE ACTIONS THE COMMUNISTS ARE UNDERTAKING TO UNITE "DEMOCRATIC FORCES" IN THIS STRUGGLE.

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2. VAN GEYT ALSO STATED THAT THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THE COMMUNIST PARTIES HAVE BEEN CONDUCTING THEIR STRUGGLE IN EUROPE HAVE CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY IN RECENT YEARS. THE MOST NOTWORTHY ASPECTS OF THE NEW SITUATION, HE SAID, ARE DETENTE, AND THE ECONOMIC CRISIS THAT NOW PLAGUES THE CAPITALIST WORLD.

3. REPRESENTATIVES OF TWENTY WESTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES ARE ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE, NOTABLY INCLUDING THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE FRENCH PARTY, GEORGES MARCHAIS, AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ITALIAN PARTY, ENRICO BERLINGUER. THE ITALIAN AND FRENCH PARTIES, WITH THE LARGEST REPRESENTATIONS AT THE CONFERENCE, ARE EXPECTED TO PLAY PRIMARY ROLES IN FORMULATING THE FUTURE TACTICS OF THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT IN WESTERN EUROPE.

4. CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS HAVE BEEN BEHIND CLOSED DOORS BUT PRECEDED AND FOLLOWED BY PRESS CONFERENCES FOR SELECTED CORRESPONDENTS ACCREDITED BY SECRETARIAT.

5. FURTHER COMMENT AND ANALYSIS TO FOLLOW.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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NNN

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